

# Hinges & Tongs



## In this Issue:

May – July, 2016

Mushrooms on Stamps • Precancels  
President's Message • Upcoming Meetings  
RPA Cartoon Caption Contest • Ecuador Cover  
Design-A-Stamp Entries • Seal Mail • Member News  
David Phillips • National Park Stamps • 2015 Stamp Awards

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**Mushrooms**  
RPA Presentation  
by Paul Brach



RPA club member Paul Brach likes mushrooms. If you are roaming a Monroe County Park you might spot Paul and his camera searching the forests and meadows for the biggest, the best, or the rarest fungi to photograph. Like many of us with a "second" hobby, Paul augments his field and scientific interest in mushrooms by collecting them on stamps. Paul shared his love of mushrooms with RPA members at our March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In Paul's words, "For this presentation, I chose species that occur in the 5 county region surrounding Rochester. My intent is to show our stamp collecting audience that an artist's rendition of a fungi species depicted on a stamp could be used akin to a guidebook for the study of mushrooms. Most pages depict a photograph and related stamp of the species, along with an edibility icon. Enjoy... but just the edible ones!"



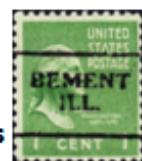
One example of about 30 slides Paul showed combining his local photos with stamps depicting mushrooms. For more examples see page 3



Aleuria aurantiaca (orange peel fungus)



**Precancels**  
RPA Presentation  
Charles Adrion, Jim Sands



The RPA meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> was all about precancels. Charles Adrion and Jim Sands shared their accumulated knowledge on the interesting topic of precancels. After describing the period of use and nature of precancels, Charles and Jim shared with us many of their best from a lifetime of collecting. They discussed subtle varieties, errors, fakes, foreign examples, humorous examples, and more. Several examples can be seen on page 4.

There are many ways to start and progress a precancel collection. In addition to collecting all possible town and city cancels from a state, county or region, one can collect from a single stamp or set, or just your hometown. Or just fill a traditional album with only precancels. Cover collectors can search the dollar box for old covers with precancels. The search for precancels can be fun and certainly challenging. But, putting aside the rarities and high value stamps, it can also be a very affordable and rewarding past time. They may be hidden, but nearly every dealer will have precancelled stamps available to the collector willing to search.



The front and back of the hand stamp used to apply the Bement, Ill. precancel to 25 definitive stamps such as the green Washington one-cent stamp in the right side of the header to this article.

## President's Message



My Phellow Philatelists,

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's ROPEX, May 20-22, at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, either as a volunteer worker, a participant or preferably, both. If you can spare some time on Thursday May 19, to help set up the frames, implement logistics, assist dealers unload, etc., just show up after 9:00am and the ROPEX Committee will put you to work. If you can assist by manning a table for a period of time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, please tell that to our Vice President, Ray Stone, when you enter the facility.

Most of you know that this year's ROPEX will be somewhat different from our usual show, in that it will be a Regional event rather a World Series of Philately Show due to it's proximity to the National Show in New York the following week. As such, we need not follow APA rules so rigidly. In addition to stamps, covers and the usual, ROPEX will offer some coins for sale and some graphic prints and framed postal history for sale. While we will not have the usual number of postal exhibits, we will have more local displays, including several one, two and three pagers from first time exhibitors. We will also have on display the winners of our kids design-a-stamp contest, with contributions from throughout the country. Also for kids, there will be free philatelic items such as stamps, albums, covers and other items.

So, fellow members, treat yourself, your spouse, your grandchildren, your extended family and your neighbors to a fun filled weekend. See you at ROPEX 2016.

**Rich Spinelli**  
**President, Rochester Philatelic Association**

### Upcoming RPA Meetings

**Thurs. May 12** "The Life of a Famous Nassau Street Stamp Dealer" by Robert DeLena

**Thurs. May 26** "What I found at ROPEX"  
All club members, bring your ROPEX acquisitions

**Thurs June 2** – Everyone a Dealer Night  
Note the special date, we are accommodating a request by the JCC to move our date forward by one week

*Hinges & Tongs*

*May – July. 2016*

**Thurs June 23** –Strawberries, Program:TBA

**Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>**: Called Auction at JCC

**Thursday August ??th** Date and Program TBA

Meetings begin at 7 PM at the JCC in Brighton. The first half hour is for silent auction, show/ trade among members, and general member interaction. The night's program begins at 7:30 PM.

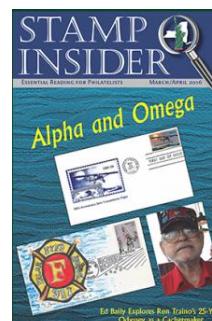
### More RPA News

**Summer meetings:** By popular "demand" of the 30 or so members who regularly attend club meetings, we will meet once in July and once in August. On July 14th, we will hold a called auction with items from members and also club items. The August meeting date and program has yet to be determined.

**Board of Director:** We have one open Board of Director position and are actively seeking a volunteer to join the club's Executive committee starting in September. An election will be held in June to fill the position. All other offices are on multi-year terms that do not expire until June, 2017.

### RPA Member News - Rick Kase

RPA member and Board of Director Rick Kase underwent successful double bypass surgery in late February, but was dealt a setback when circulation to his left foot failed a few weeks later. By late April, the only recourse was amputation and Rick is now faced with recovery from losing his left leg at the knee. At present (May 6th), he is in early recovery and is being watched at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. Physical therapy will follow. He is upbeat and as long as he is at Strong he welcomes visitors. For an update you can contact Rick directly at [rickysixteen@gmail.com](mailto:rickysixteen@gmail.com), 585-775-5352, or if you are a Facebook user, friend Richard Kase, hometown Rochester, NY.



### STAMP INSIDER March-April Issue

**The May-June issue is now available online**

**[Link to online issue](http://www.stampinsider.org)**  
[www.stampinsider.org](http://www.stampinsider.org)

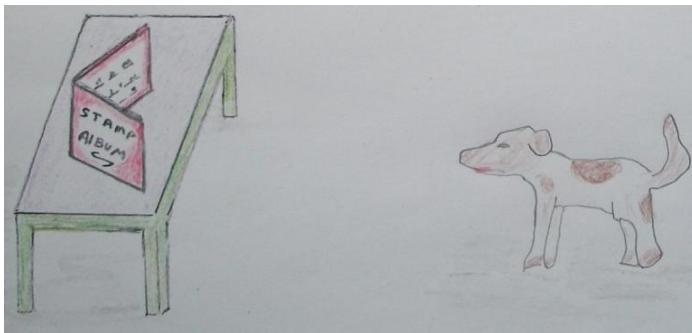
*page 2*

## RPA Cartoon Caption Contest

Given the interest and success of the “Design-A-Cachet” contest in January, we are at it again. David Farnsworth has crafted two cartoons that need captions.

Each RPA member can submit up to two captions for each of the cartoon panels that appear below. One of those submissions for each panel can be by a family member of the RPA member. The submitter should indicate to which panel each caption applies: The Dog Panel or the Handstand Panel. Captions should be given to Rich Spinelli in person, e-mailed to [rspinell@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rspinell@rochester.rr.com), or mailed to RPA President, Rich Spinelli, 295 Raspberry Patch Drive, Rochester, NY 14612-2875. Entries must reach Rich by June 9, 2016. It is expected that members present at the second RPA meeting in June will vote on the winners

### DOG PANEL



### HANDSTAND PANEL



## More Mushrooms (cont. from page 1)

Here are more examples of mushrooms from Paul Brach's March talk, local pictures with not so local stamps. One is deadly poisonous; the other two are considered delectable. You can see them all by visiting the meetings page of the RPA website.



*Amanita virosa* (destroying angel)



*Sarcoscypha coccinea* (scarlet cup fungus)



*Phlogiotis helvelloides* (apricot jelly fungus)

For more, visit:

<http://www.rpastamps.org/presentations/mushroomsonstamps.pdf>

## RPA Member News – Frank Tritto

On the last weekend of April, RPA member Frank Tritto made his well earned and deserved Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Frank travelled with his son-in-law Fred Hodge and 50 other veterans as the Rochester Honor Flight Group hosted the 3-day journey to Baltimore and Washington D.C.

Naturally the highlight of the trip was the visit to the World War II Memorial built to honor these men and the many that did not return. But Frank said he was also very impressed by the Korean and Vietnam Memorials and by the 600 acre Arlington Cemetery. They visited the Washington and Lincoln Memorials and were treated like royalty throughout the visit. Although most of the cherry blossoms had already fallen, that did not dampen the wonderful experience for 50 brave Americans who made the trip.

Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo was there to greet the group in Sunday and spoke individually with each Honor Flight participant. Frank was still wearing his shirt and his badge and waving his flag when several of us saw him on Tuesday.



John Lighthouse was at the Rochester airport as the group returned and took this picture of our happy American hero.

### Ecuador Honors USA 100<sup>th</sup> Year Constitution Anniversary

By Larry Rausch

As a young Boy Scout and just starting stamp collecting there were a few great looking stamps I wanted for my collection. Among these were two 1938 series of Ecuador stamps, but my 1950's childhood finances prevented me from buying these stamps. Many years later, I was able to purchase the beautiful cover below which contains three of these Ecuador stamps.



The cover is postmarked September 5, 1938 and addressed to Syracuse NY with copies of Scott #369, 370, 3 copies of C61 and a Postal Tax Stamp RA41 all 1938 issued stamps. Stamps 369 (20 centavos) and 370 (50 centavos) depict Lady Liberty carrying the Flag of Ecuador, C61 (50 centavos) contains a portrait of George Washington, an American eagle, and Flags of the United States and Ecuador. And lastly, a 5 centavo issue with a Map of Ecuador.

### Precancels (cont. from page 1)

Just a few of the examples Charles and Jim showed and discussed in April.



A humorous precancel on the left, postage due in the center and a dated precancel on the right.



These Canadian examples from Nova Scotia are quite rare. Higher denomination U.S precancels can be hard to find also.



Here is an interesting error. Do you see it?

## Seal Mail

RPA Presentation  
By Florence Wright



Sometimes, *although not often*, the United States Post Office makes a mistake and delivers mail that does not carry proper postage. Since various types of charity and promotional seals often look like stamps, more than a few people have tried to send mail with Christmas seals, Easter seals, even S&H green stamps. Florence and other members of the "Charity Seal Society" decided it might be fun to collect covers deploying seals as postage that made it through the system without detection or were caught with postage due notices. At our February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting she shared a number of such covers at our club meeting.

Christmas seals seem to be the most popular seal used, either by mistake or design. The oldest such illegal use of seals for postage known to Florence was this successful Christmas card sent within Philadelphia in December of 1907



The full card shown above has an interesting history. It is clearly dated Jan 1, 2012, but carries the 2012 Christmas seal not issued until October of 2012. It seems likely that the postal clerk not only missed the bogus postage, but had also failed to change his hand stamp to the new year!

Some did get caught. Presumably no one was deflating footballs in Foxboro, MA in 1918, but someone did try to cheat the post office. The recipient of the piece shown below apparently did pay the price, two cents postage due.



Florence's presentation containing many more examples of "SealMail" can be found on the meeting page of our website. [LINK](#)



Amy Ruan  
Age 13, Grade 8  
Fairport, NY

Come see all Design-A-Stamp Entries at ROPEX



Thomas Devine  
Age 11, Grade 6  
Janesville, WI



Connor Mellin  
Age 13, Grade 8  
Kingston, NY



Colin Stewart  
Age 10, Grade 4  
Stone Ridge, NY



Bella Lexer  
Age 10, Grade 4  
East Rochester, NY

## RPA Member David Phillips



The Rochester Philatelic Association lost a lifetime member in March. David Phillips passed away on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91. Right up until late 2015, David was a regular attendee at our monthly meetings and was actively adding to his philatelic collection.

David worked for Kodak for 35 years and was also a member of the stamp club that met at Kodak in past years. He was a proud Navy veteran. David is survived by his wife of 67 years, Florence, two of three sons, six grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.

Join us for the...

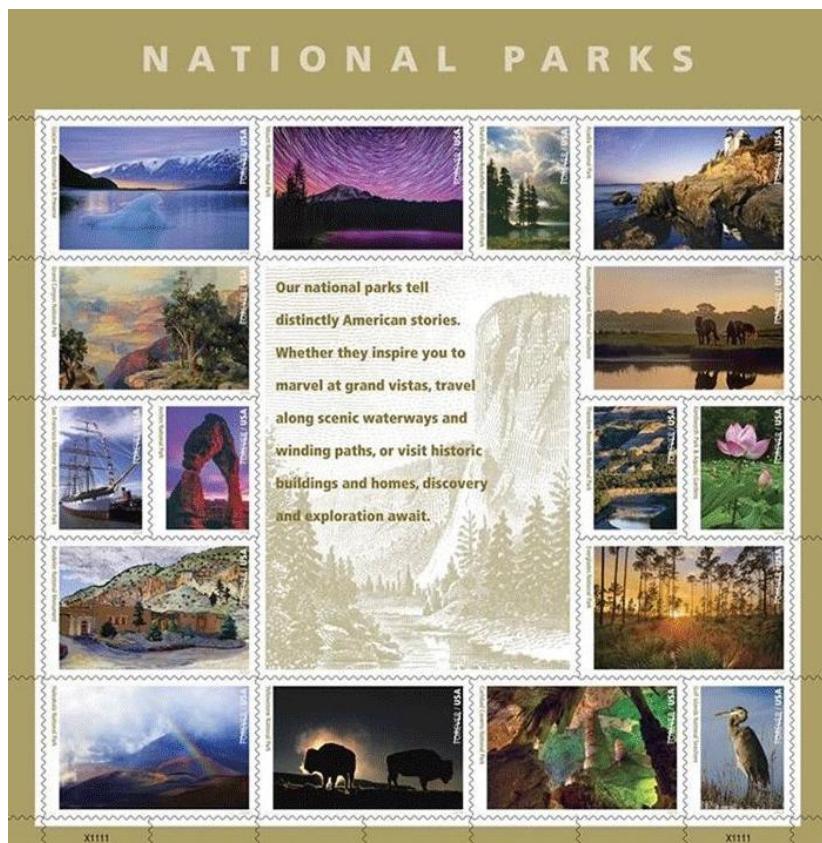
# ROPEX 2016

## Stamp Show

100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the National Parks Service

ROPEX is honoring our country's National Parks in May and the USPS is going to follow that up with this colorful sheet of 16 Forever stamps featuring two stamp sizes and scenes from 16 of our National Park Service locations.

The June 2 first-day-of-issue ceremony will take place at New York City's Javits Center at 11 a.m. as part of the *World Stamp Show NY-2016*. Dedication ceremonies also will take place at, or near, each of the national parks depicted on the stamps.



Linn's Stamp News readers selected the set of ten definitive Charlie Brown's Christmas Stamps as the overall favorite issue and as the best definitive stamp design of 2015. The best commemorative design was captured in a landslide by the "Gifts of Friendship" stamps depicting cherry blossoms and Washington D.C. monuments. The Vietnam War Medal of Honor stamps were selected "Most Important". A list of all selected stamps and the voting can be found in the May 16 issue of Linn's Stamp News.